ASIA.

G. Boynton

PETER PARLEY'S

TALES ABOUT ASIA.

WITH A MAP AND NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS.

BOSTON:
GRAY & BOWEN AND CARTER & HENDEE.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THIS is designed as a fourth volume in a series of Geographical and Historical Tales for children. Tales of America, Europe, and Africa have already been published. Tales of Islands in the Pacific Ocean, Tales of the Sea, and Tales of the Sun, Moon, and Stars, will complete the series. These three last are in a state of forwardness.

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PETER PARLEY'S TALES

ABOUT ASIA.

CHAPTER I.

Story of a Tiger and Crocodile.

'HERE comes old Peter Parley once more!'

Yes, here I am, alive and well, but I am more lame, than I was last year. I used to get along comfortably, with a cane, but in the winter I slipped down upon the ice, as I was going across Boston Common, and ever since, I have been obliged to go about with a crutch.

But if my legs are stiff, my tongue is free; and as I cannot walk as well as formerly, I love to tell stories better than ever. So I will now tell you about a Tiger and a Crocodile.

But I must describe these animals, for I suppose you never have seen either of them. The Tiger is a wild cruel animal, shaped like a cat, but larger than the largest dog. Here is a picture of a Tiger.

A Crocodile is a large ugly creature, with a prodigious mouth, a long tail, and a hard shell. It lives in rivers, and can sink to the bottom, or rise to the top, with great ease. It is very swift in the water, but on the land, it crawls

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Describe a Tiger?
Describe a Crocodile?

about with difficulty. Here is a picture of a Crocodile.

Now, there was once a ship, sailing along by the mouth of a river. The people in the ship were in want of fresh water, for you know the water of the sea is salt, and cannot be drank. So some of the people in the ship went ashore to get fresh water.

One of the men wandered from the rest, and went to a considerable distance along the bank of the river. By and by, he came to a beautiful place, and sat down to rest himself. The trees and bushes were loaded with ripe fruit, and fragrant flowers. There were a multitude of birds with bright plumage, in the

air and in the woods. They were singing their merry songs, and sporting amid the branches of the trees.

It was indeed a delightful spot, and the weather being warm, the wanderer remained sometime beneath the cool shade of the trees, looking with pleasure upon the beautiful scene. He was sitting upon the grass close by the river. By and by, he thought he heard a slight noise in the water. He turned round, and could distinctly see a large Crocodile, just beneath the surface of the clear wave. The huge animal was already close to him, and the man could see his projecting eyeballs fixed upon him.

Scarcely had he time to spring to his feet, before the open jaws of the Crocodile were raised above the water, ready to receive their prey. The man instantly leaped upon a rock that was near him, and was preparing to fly from the spot, when a new, and more startling danger, presented itself. Directly before him, a

huge Tiger lay crouched in the thicket. The eye of the animal was fixed on the man, and as if sure of his victim, he was waving his tail triumphantly in the air.

For a single instant, the sailor looked in speechless amazement upon the Tiger. Then with a sudden leap, he sprang aside, in the faint hope of escape. With the agility of a cat, the Tiger bounded from his lurking place. His eyes flashing, and his claws expanded, he rushed toward his intended victim, uttering at the same moment a terrible growl.

But he missed his aim. The man had passed a little beyond his reach, and the Tiger, leaping nearly over his head, plunged, like a thunder bolt, into the very jaws of the Crocodile.

The two monsters now closed with each other in deadly struggle. The Crocodile drew the Tiger into the water, and here the conflict was terrible. Each striving for victory, they alternately rose and sank in the river. The waves bubbled and swelled around them, and

TIGER AND CROCODILE.

the water to a considerable distance, was stained with blood. At length the Tiger rose to the surface apparently exhausted, and uttering a thrilling yell, he sank in the stream. The water settled quietly over him, and no more was seen of these fearful monsters.

The sailor, who had witnessed this scene, paused a moment, and fell upon his knees, to thank Heaven for his remarkable deliverance. He then returned to his companions, and told them this strange story.

Now, where do you think this affair happened, if it happened at all? Not in America, for there are no Tigers nor Crocodiles in America. Not in Europe, for there are none of these animals there. Not in Africa, for there are no real Tigers there. It must have been in Asia therefore.

Are there any Tigers or Crocodiles in America?
Are there any in Europe?
Are there any real Tigers in Africa?
Where are Tigers found?

CHAPTER II.

Parley tells about the Countries and People of Asia.

But where is Asia? That is what I am going to tell you. The world, you know, is round, and Asia is on the other side of it. If you will take an apple, and stick a pin in one side of it, then turn it over, and stick a pin in the other side of it, one of these pins will represent America, and the other Asia.

In order to go to Asia one may travel either east, or west. A part of the way, we may go by land, but the greater part of the distance we must sail in a ship, for there are great oceans between us and Asia.

Now Asia is an immense country. It is larger than either America, Africa or Europe. It has as many people in it, as all the rest of the world. It is the country in which Adam and Eve dwelt, in which Moses, David, Solomon, and our Saviour lived. Asia is, in fact,

SIBERIANS.

CHINESE.

one of the most remarkable, and interesting portions of the earth.

At the beginning of this book, is a map of Asia. The top of the map is north, the right hand, east, the bottom part, south, and the left hand, west. Now this great division of the world, is separated, as you see on the map, into thirteen different countries.

In the northern part is Siberia, a cold and desolate country, inhabited for the most part by people of low stature, who dress in furs in winter, live in small cabins, and use Rein deer for drawing their sledges.

To the south of Siberia, is the Chinese empire. This consists of China, from which we get tea, and silk goods; and several nations of Tartars. The Tartars are a wandering

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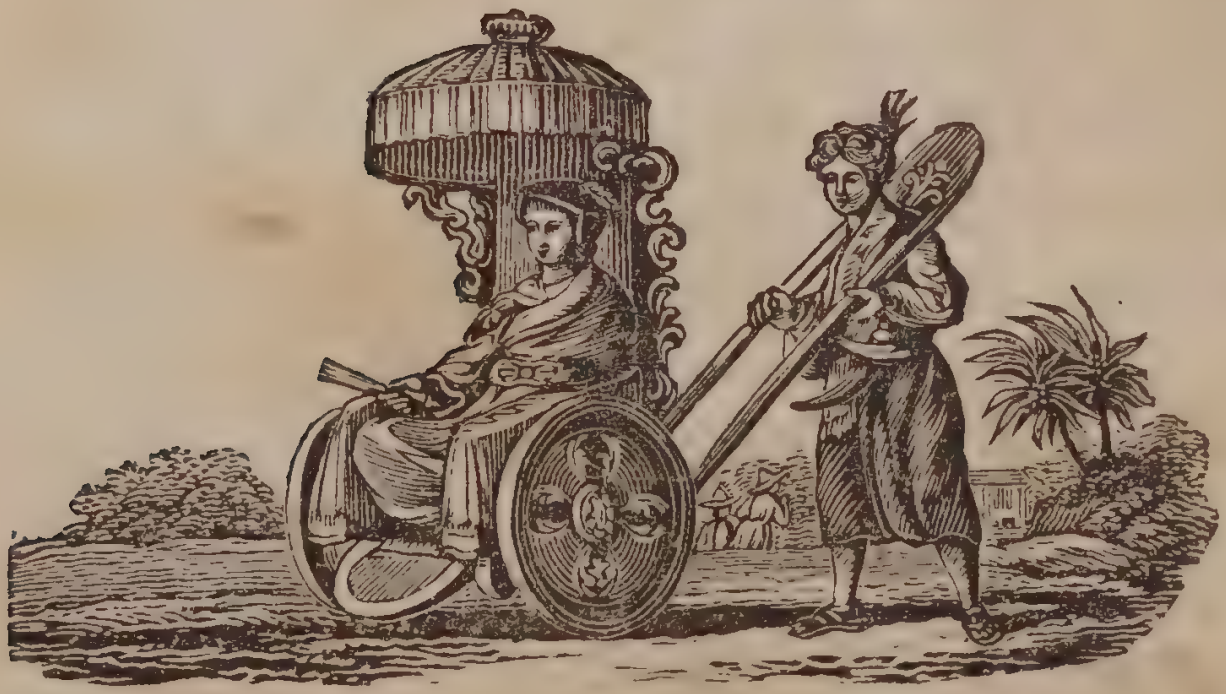
Into how many countries is Asia divided?
In what part of Asia is Siberia?
Describe the Siberians.
In what part of Asia is China?
Which way is China from Hindoostan?
From Independent Tartary? From Siberia?
What do we get from China?
Describe the Tartars.

TARTARS.



JAPANESE.

people, who live in tents, possess large flocks of cattle, and wander from place to place. They are excellent horsemen, are fond of the chase, and martial exercises, and despise those people, who live in settled habitations.

China is the southern portion of the Chinese empire. It is full of people, and is crossed in every direction by canals, upon which there are multitudes of boats, carrying goods to various parts of the kingdom. The Chinese are a very singular people, and I shall tell you more about them by and by.

A little to the east of China, you see a group of islands, the largest of which is called Niphon. These islands constitute the empire of Japan. The Japanese are very ingenious, but they are so suspicious that they will not let Europeans come into their country. I

Describe China.
Where are the Japan isles?
In what direction are they from Persia?
From China?
From Hindoostan?
Which is the largest of the Japan isles?
What of the Japanese?

BURMANS.

MALAYS.

shall tell you some curious things about them, before I have done my story.

South of the Chinese empire, you will see a broad piece of land, extending into the ocean. This is called Chin India. There are several nations here, the principal of which, is the Birman nation. The people here ride about on elephants, as we do on horses. I shall tell you about them soon.

At the extremity of Chin India, you observe a narrow point of land, projecting in a southeasterly direction, into the sea. This is a peninsula, and is called Malacca. The people here, are a wild and cruel race, and the country is infested by multitudes of tigers and crocodiles.

Now look on the map, and west of Chin India you will see a country, which terminates in a sharp point. This is the country of the

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In what direction is Chin India from Hindoostan? From the Japan isles? From Turkey? Arabia?

What is the principal kingdom in Chin India? What of the Burmese?

In which direction is Malacca from Japan? Afghanistan? Siberia?

Describe Malacca. What of the people? What of the wild animals?

PERSIANS.

INDEPENDENT TARTARS.

Hindoos, and is called Hindoostan. It is also often called India. It is to this country, that many missionaries have been sent. I have no doubt you have heard how these Hindoos sometimes drown their children, vainly imagining that in so doing they please God.

Beloo-chistan comprises several different tribes of barbarous people, many of whom are robbers. Afghanistan, which lies to the north of Beloo-chistan, is occupied by a nation who are fond of war and the chase. Persia, lying to the west of Afghanistan, is inhabited by a nation, who are fond of poetry and fine horses.

To the north of Persia is Independent Tartary, a country of lofty mountains; and inhabited by a nation of bold and daring robbers.

To the west of Independent Tartary is a

In which direction is Hindoostan from Arabia? Turkey? Independent Tartary? Japan? China?

What do the Hindoos sometimes do with their children?

In which direction is Beloo-chistan from Japan? What of the people of Beloo-chistan?

Which way is Afghanistan from Kamtskatka? What of the Afghans?

Which way is Persia from China? Japan? Turkey? What of the people of Persia? Which way is Independent Tartary from China? Hindoostan? What of the country? Of the people?

CAUCASSIANS.

TURKS.

great salt lake, called the Caspian sea. On the western border of this lake are the Caucassian countries. The people here, are remarkable for their beauty. Many of the young women are carried to Turkey, and sold for slaves.

Southwest of the Caucassian countries is Turkey. You will recollect there is a Turkey in Europe also. The country of which I am now telling you is in Asia. It is subject to the Sultan of Turkey, who resides at Constantinople. The people are chiefly Turks.

South of Turkey is Arabia. The people are a wandering race, living in tents, and subsisting chiefly by means of their flocks. They have a great many camels, and the most beautiful horses in the world. In Arabia, and Turkey in Asia, most of the events recorded in the old and new Testament took place.

Which way is the Caspian sea from Japan? Which way are the Caucassian countries from Chin India? What of the people?

Which way is Turkey from Persia? China?

To whom is Turkey in Asia subject? What of the people?

Which way is Arabia from Persia? China? Japan? What of the people? What animals have they?

What events have taken place in Arabia and Turkey?

Thus I have told you about the divisions of Asia, and the principal nations and tribes inhabiting it. These nations, have none of them white skins, like the Americans, nor are any of them as black as Negroes. Many of them are as dark as our Indians, and some of them are much darker. The women of Japan, and the Caucassian women, are nearly as white as the women of America. None of them are Christians, except perhaps a very few, and these have an imperfect knowledge of Christianity.

CHAPTER III.

Parley tells how to go to China, and how he went there.

Now that you know something about Asia, I will tell you the way to go to it. You must get into a ship at New York, or Boston, or

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What of the complexion of the people of Asia? Are any of the people of Asia, Christians?

In which direction must you sail to go to Asia?

some other place, and sail across the Atlantic ocean, in a southeasterly direction. In about five or six weeks you will approach the southern point of Africa, called the Cape of Good Hope. You will double this cape, as the sailors say; that is, you will pass around it, and enter the Indian ocean. This is about three thousand miles wide. You will cross it in an easterly direction. By and by, you will come to some great islands. Passing between these and pursuing a northerly course, you will soon come to China. It will probably take you about four months to go from New York, or Boston, to that country. The whole distance, I suppose, is about fifteen thousand miles, measuring the track of the vessel.

I have told you, in my stories about Africa, how I once crossed the Indian ocean. I was

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How long will it take to go to the Cape of Good Hope?

Where is the Cape of Good Hope? Which way is it from you?

What ocean do you cross between the Cape of Good Hope and China? How far across the Indian ocean?

How long does it take a vessel to go from Boston to China? How many miles does a vessel sail to reach China, from Boston?

going to China, you remember; and one day, as we were sailing in the ship Kien Long, we saw a very remarkable object before us in the sea. At first it appeared like the back of a great elephant, and then it appeared like a dark thunder cloud. As we came nearer, we discovered that it was an island, covered with mountainous peaks, so black and ragged, as to wear a truly frightful appearance. I was told that volcanoes once existed in these mountains, and earthquakes are still very common.

To the southeast of Asia are a great number of islands, some of which are very large. There are a great many inhabitants in them, and they produce many valuable articles of commerce, such as nutmegs, pepper, cloves, camphor, and other things. I passed between two of these islands, one was Sumatra, and the other Java. I should like to tell you

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What lie to the southeast of Asia?
What can you tel of these islands?
What islands di Parley pass between?
What sea did he cross?

about these, and the other islands in the Pacific ocean. Their story is very interesting, but I cannot tell it now. Perhaps I may tell you about them, at some future time.

Well, as I was telling you, we sailed along in our ship, and entered the China sea. Proceeding in a northerly course across this sea, we came at length to the mouth of a very large river. There were a multitude of islands, and we found it somewhat difficult to navigate our ship between them.

We came at length to Macao, which is situated on an island. It was built by the Portuguese, many years ago, and was once a place of great importance. But it is now a small town. We continued to sail up the river, which we found very broad, with a great many islands in it. By and by, we began to approach Canton. The banks of the river were beautifully cultivated, the

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Where is Macao?
What can you tell of Macao?
How did the land appear as Parley approached China?

plains, the slopes, and the very hills, which hung over the water, were covered with many kinds of fruit, grain, and vegetables. The whole landscape, on both sides of the river, seemed like a garden.

The surface of the water was covered with a multitude of boats, of various forms, and dimensions. They were differently fashioned from our American boats. Most of them were painted with two eyes on the forepart, and ornamented with figures of beasts, birds, and serpents, on the stern or hinderpart.

The number of these boats was really countless. Some of them sat motionless on the water, others were moving forward with a slow, and heavy progress, and others still were rapidly shooting over the waves, like birds gliding in the air.

It was a strange, yet beautiful scene. The air was soft and balmy, the shores were sprin-

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What does Parley say of the boats in the river of Canton?
How does Parley describe the scene?

kled over with houses, the land was green with vegetation, and the very bosom of the river was alive with men and women, pursuing their various avocations.

At first, it all seemed to me like a dream. The houses were unlike any I had seen before, the modes of cultivating the lands, the plants, and the trees, were all singular. The fashion of the boats was strange, the dress, complexion, and features of the people were all new.

There is nothing more pleasant than the first sight of a strange land. I was indeed delighted with the scene. I stood upon the deck of the vessel, quietly gazing upon the objects around me, when suddenly a loud cry burst from the boats near us; this was followed by a crash, and screams of distress. I looked over the side of the vessel, and discovered that our ship had upset one of the boats, with three men and two women in it.

What accident happened to one of the boats?

These people were immediately carried under the vessel, and I supposed that they must certainly be drowned. But very soon they were all seen amid the agitated waves at the stern of the vessel, swimming like ducks, and tossing up and down like corks, upon the billows. They were immediately taken up by the other boats, and not one was drowned.

We now arrived at Whampoa, which is about thirteen miles from Canton. Here our vessel stopped. All foreign vessels are required to stop here, and are not permitted to go farther up the river toward Canton. There, their goods are taken out, and carried in boats to the city of Canton. Goods are also brought from the city, and put on board the vessels at this place.

Where is Whampoa? What of foreign vessels?

CHAPTER IV.

Description of Canton.

VERY soon after our arrival at Whampoa, I went up in a boat to the city of Canton. This is, in many respects, one of the most remarkable cities in the world. The number of inhabitants is five times as great as that of Boston, and twice that of New York.

The city is nearly square, and is surrounded by strong walls, within which no foreigner is allowed to enter. The streets are long and straight, and are chiefly paved with hewn stone. These streets are kept extremely neat, some of them are covered over with arched roofs. Here the shops are full of rich, and beautiful goods.

The houses are of one story, and built of brick. They have no windows looking into

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How many inhabitants in Canton?
Describe the city.

the streets. The streets are always swarming with people, particularly with porters. There are no coaches, nor carriages, no rattling stages, and no thundering trucks. All the burdens are carried about by the porters; even people, men and women, who are too rich, or too lazy, to go on foot, are carried in chairs by the porters.

These porters have their heads, legs, and feet bare, their body is covered with a kind of short frock, and their hair, which is coarse, black, and more than a yard long, is braided, and hangs in a long cue down their bodies.

The trade of Canton is immense. There are sometimes five thousand foreign ships at Whampoa. When lying together, their countless masts look like a forest of trees. These ships come from every part of Europe, and America. The Chinese have very little need of the manufactures, or the productions of other countries. Their own country is so fruitful,

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What of the trade of Canton?

and they are so industrious, that they produce at home, almost everything they want.

The foreign ships, therefore, bring to China little else beside silver money. They bring a little opium, and a few other things, but the amount is small. Attracted by the large sums of money brought to Canton, the people from all parts of the kingdom, bring to this city immense quantities of goods.

These consist of tea, porcelain, a species of fine earthenware called china, nankins, silks, gold in bars, mother-of-pearl, and sugar. These goods are transported to Canton on the canals, which communicate with all parts of the empire. Immense numbers of boats, loaded with goods, may at all times be seen coming down the Canton river, which is navigable for three hundred miles, into a fruitful, and beautifully cultivated country.

What induces the Chinese to bring goods to Canton?
What are the principal articles furnished to foreign traders?
How are goods brought to Canton?

No foreigners, as I have before said, are permitted to enter the city of Canton. They are obliged, therefore, to remain in the suburbs. These are quite extensive, and constitute of themselves a fine city. Here a great many Americans, Englishmen, and other Europeans reside, for the purpose of superintending the trade, carried on with their respective countries. There are also many silk manufactories here, several of which belong to foreigners.

About three miles from the city of Canton, there is a place called the Boat Town. This consists of about forty thousand boats, which cover the river, and form a kind of floating city. These boats all touch one another, and are ranged so as to form streets. The people who inhabit them have no other dwelling, and are prohibited by law from settling on the shore. Each boat lodges a family, including

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What of the suburbs of Canton?
Who reside in these suburbs?

grandparents and grandchildren. The number of inhabitants is probably one hundred thousand.

The country around Canton is beautiful and healthy. It abounds in all the necessaries, and delicacies of life. This city is the only place in China, where Europeans go to trade.

The great article of export, is tea ; of this, forty million pounds, are sometimes sent away in a year. The management of trade at Canton, is committed to a council called Hong. This council consists of twelve or fourteen rich merchants.

Describe the Boat Town near Canton,
What of the country around Canton ?
What is the chief article of export ?
How many pounds of tea are sent in a year away from China ?
To whom is the management of trade at Canton committed ?

CHAPTER V.

Something about China, and the Emperor, and Pekin, and Nankin.

I HAVE now told you about Canton. To us, it is the most important of all the cities of China, because it is the only one, with which we have any intercourse. I will now tell you something more about the kingdom. The whole country of China, is about two-thirds as large as the United States. The number of people is probably one hundred and fifty million. It is therefore very thickly settled. Very few Europeans have been into the interior of China, because the government is very jealous of foreigners, and will not allow them to travel there.

A few persons, however, have passed through

Why is Canton the most important city to us in China?
What is the extent of China? How many people in China?
What do the Chinese say of their country?

some portions of China, and they all agree in describing the country as full of people. The Chinese say, themselves, that in China there are more than four thousand cities, that the sea coast is defended by four hundred and thirty-nine castles, and that the villages, scattered over the country, are innumerable. The army consists of a million of soldiers.

Almost the whole surface of China is under cultivation. The lands are tilled with the greatest industry. Even steep mountains are rendered productive. Walls are built around them to support the soil, and water is raised by chain pumps, and sprinkled over them, to give them fertility.

I have told you before, that there were a great many canals in China. These run in every direction, and extend over the whole kingdom. The largest of these is called the Imperial Canal. It extends from Pekin to

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What of the cultivation of the soil in China?
What of Canals? Of the Imperial Canal?

Canton. These two cities are but about one thousand miles apart, but this canal, including its windings, is more than one thousand six hundred miles in length.

One of the greatest curiosities in China is the great wall. It is built of stone, and is one thousand five hundred miles long. It is carried over mountains and valleys, and is generally about thirty feet high. It is so broad, that six horsemen can ride abreast upon it. It forms the boundary line of China on the north, and was built many hundred years ago, to protect the country from the Tartars, who frequently invaded it. This is the greatest human structure on the face of the globe, and clearly attests the great energy and patience of the Chinese.

The emperor of China resides at Pekin. This city is one of the largest in the world. It is about one thousand miles from Canton,

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What of the Great Wall?
Where does the Emperor of China live? What of Pekin?

in a direction nearly north. It is enclosed by high walls, and is exactly square. The streets of Pekin are straight, and the principal ones are three miles in length.

It is astonishing to see, the immense concourse of people that continually fills them. They are also thronged with numberless mules, camels, horses and carriages. It is remarkable, that, amidst this assemblage of living and moving things, no women are to be seen.

The emperor's palace, which is in the city, covers an extent of ground four miles and a half in circumference. It presents an assemblage of vast buildings, extensive courts, and magnificent gardens, and is surrounded on all sides by a double wall.

From this account it appears, that Pekin is truly an immense city. It probably contains ten times as many people as New York. What a prodigious population! We can hard-

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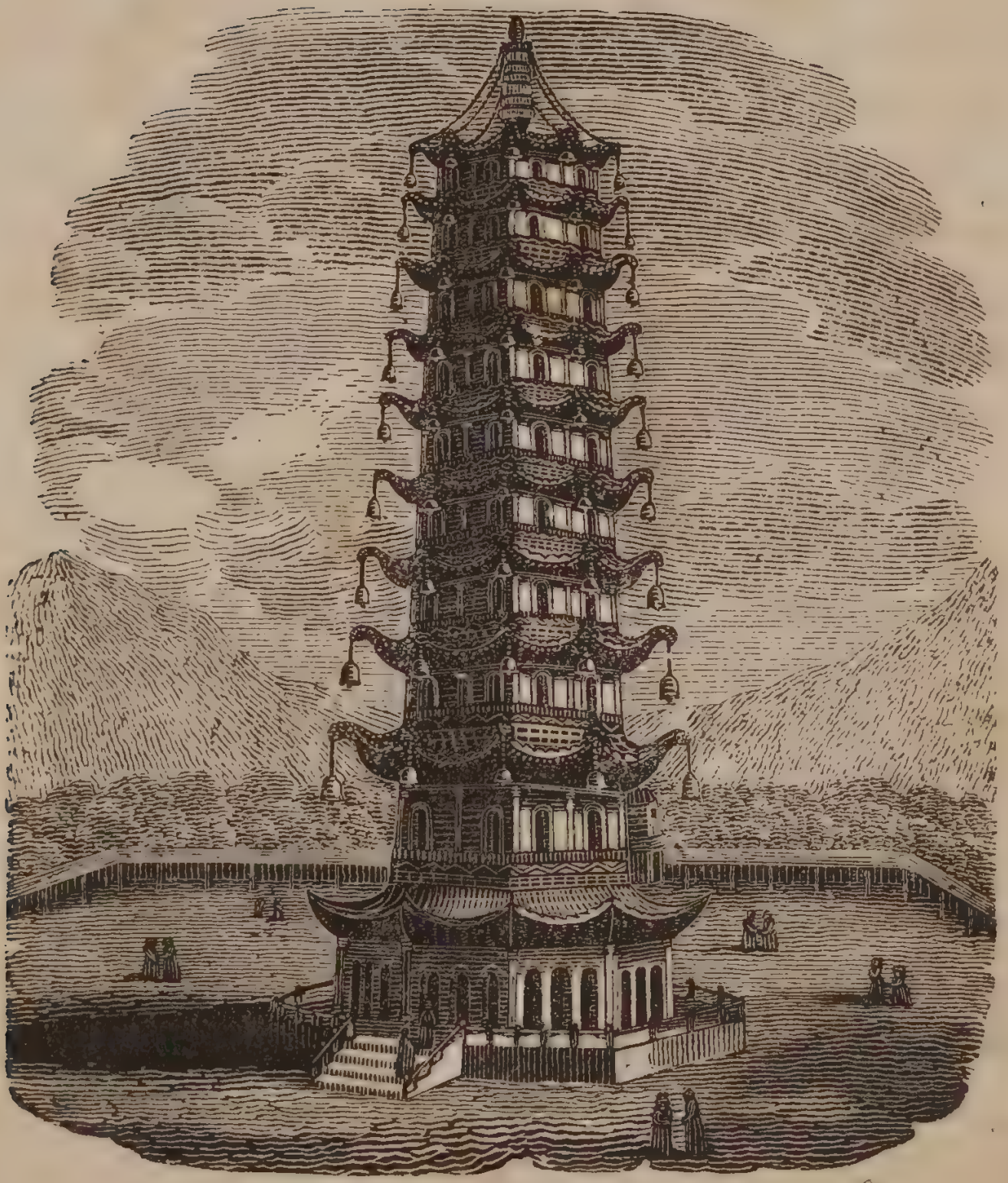
Describe the Emperor's Palace at Pekin.
How many people in Pekin?



TOWER OF NANKIN.

ly conceive, that so many people could be crowded into one town.

But the Chinese require very little room to live in. Three generations, including grandparents and grandchildren, often live in one house, and the houses are generally small. They are usually surrounded by walls, six or seven feet high. All the inmates of a house eat in one room, and their beds are only separated by mats hanging from the wall.

Nankin is another famous city of China. It was once the largest in the empire, but now it is decayed. Its walls are sixteen miles in circumference. It still abounds in manufactories of silk. This city has given name to the yellowish cotton goods, called nankeen, so well known in this country.

In this city there is a very remarkable curiosity. This is a tower which is built of porcelain, nearly two hundred feet high, that is,

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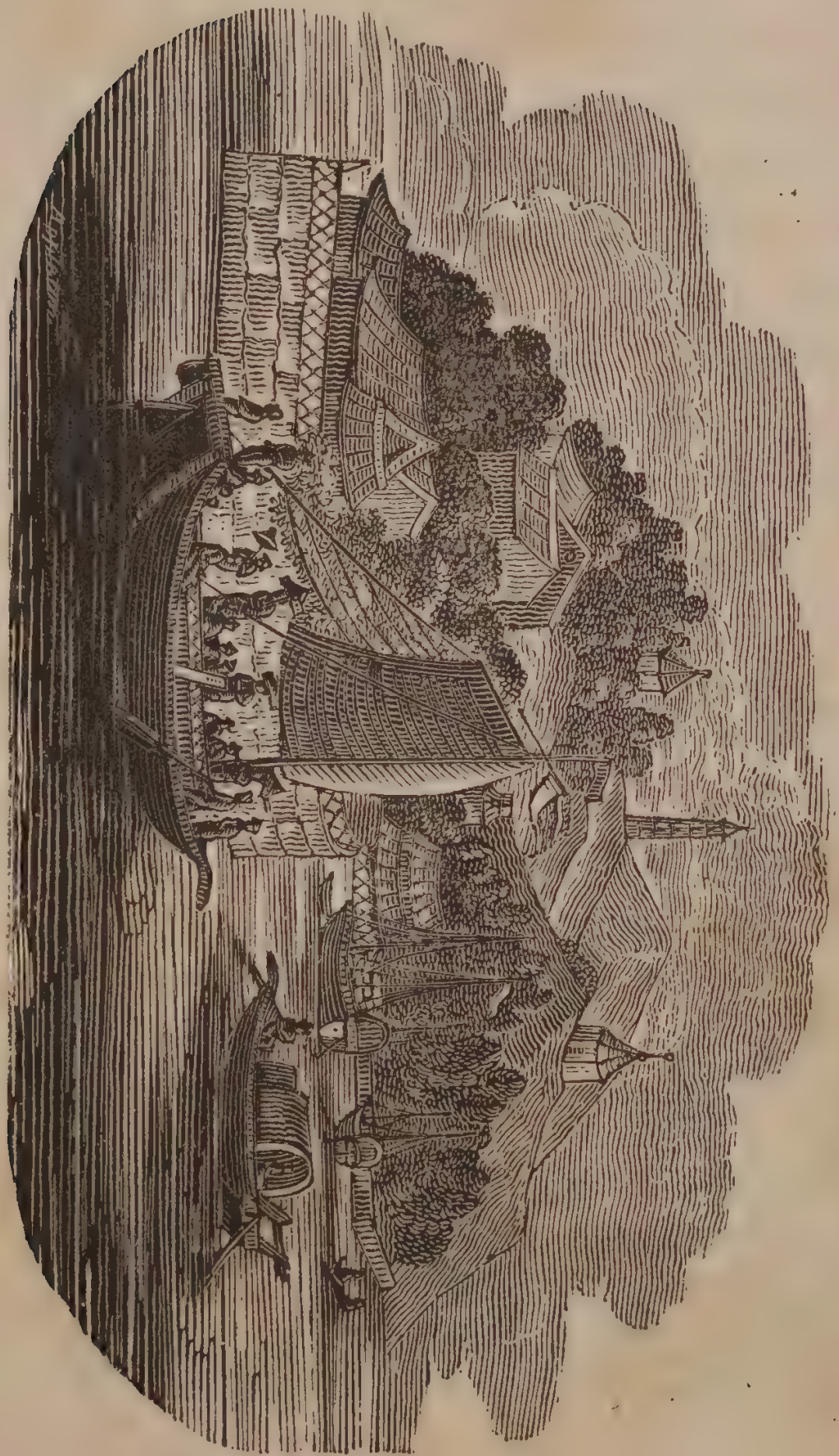
Describe the houses in Pekin.
Describe Nankin.



PALACE OF THE CHINESE EMPEROR.

higher than the tallest steeple in Boston. It is divided into nine stories, and is ascended by eight hundred and eighty-four steps. In the corners of all the galleries are hung bells without number, which produce clear and delightful sounds, by the impulse of the wind.

CHAPTER VI.

Parley tells about the People of China.

I WILL now tell you something of the people of China. I will begin with the Emperor. His name is Kia King. This was the sixteenth son of Kien Long, a celebrated Emperor of China, who lived to the age of eighty-six. It was after this Emperor that the ship I sailed in was named.

The Emperor of China usually resides at Pekin, but he has a palace at a little distance from the city, where he sometimes lives. The picture of this palace is given on the opposite

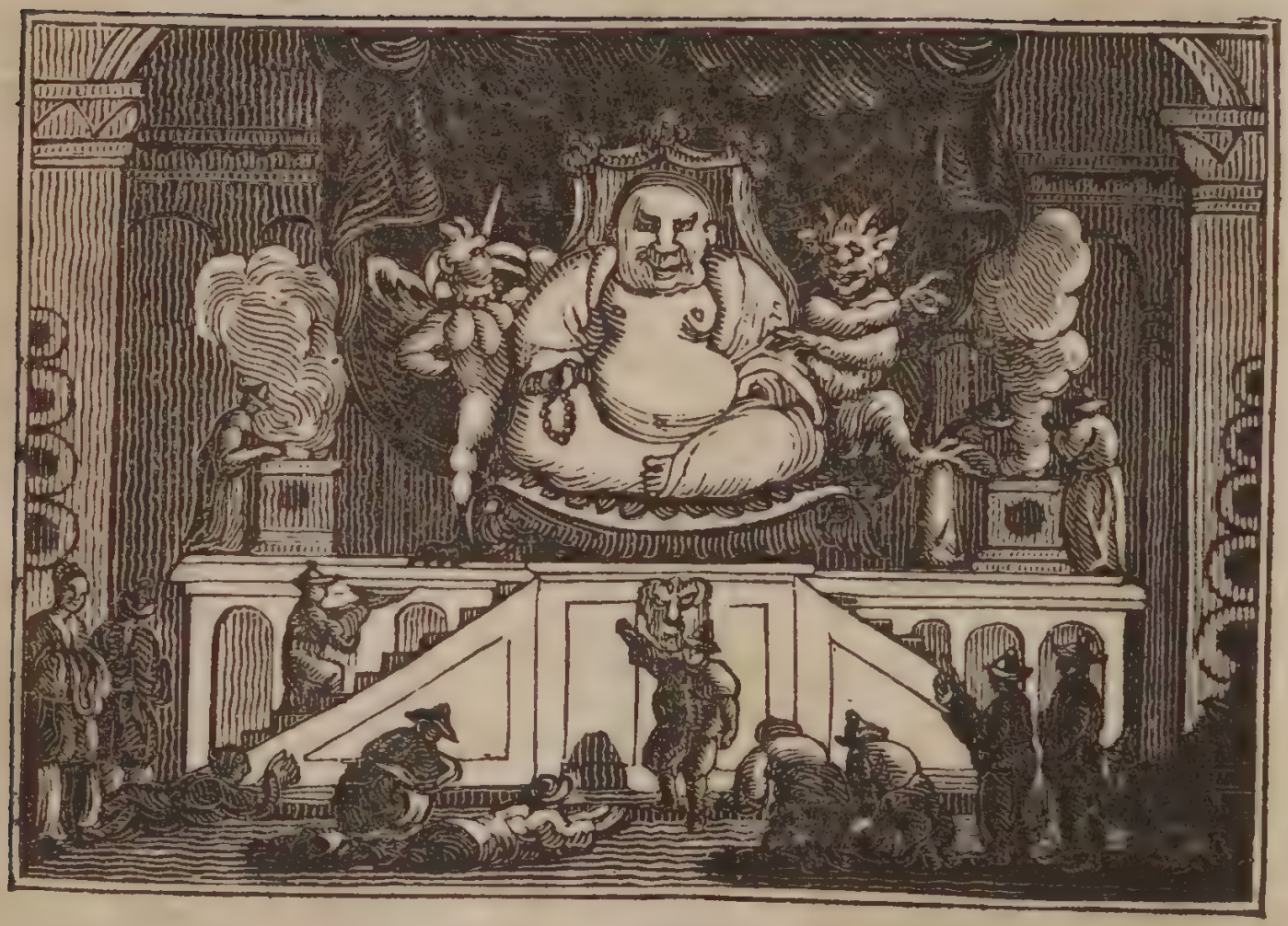
What was the name of the Emperor of China, when Parley was in tha country? What can you tell about him?

page. The will of this sovereign throughout his dominions, is absolute. He can take away the life or the property of any individual. If he is disposed to do wickedly, there is no law to restrain him. The people bow to his authority, with abject and slavish submission.

He is styled the sole ruler of the earth, and the son of heaven. He is sometimes surrounded by a retinue of forty thousand soldiers as his guards, with their colors and music; and the numerous princes and grandees of the empire, and frequently tributary kings, heighten this pomp.

Such is the servile reverence paid to the Emperor, that it is customary to kneel before his mandates or written commands, and touch the earth nine times with the forehead. A few years after I was in China, Lord Amherst, an English ambassador sent by the king of England, was dismissed, without seeing the Emperor, for refusing to perform this ceremony.

What do the people style the Emperor?
What reverence is paid to the mandates of the Emperor?
What can you tell about Lord Amherst?



CHINESE IDOL.

The religion of the Chinese is very singular. They do not believe in the Bible, nor do they know anything about it. The learned men have, in fact, very little religion at all. They pay great reverence to the opinions of Confucius, an ancient Chinese philosopher.

The common people are chiefly worshippers of a deity, who bears the name of Fo. They have many temples filled with gigantic images, to which they attribute great virtues, and pay great devotion. The priests are called Bonzes; and the people are fond of processions, and pompous religious ceremonies.

The truth is, the Chinese are an ignorant and superstitious people, and their religion is a system, contrived by cunning priests, to obtain influence over them. Like the religion of Mahomet, it is a false religion. It does

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What of the religion in China?
Who do the learned men reverence?
Who do the common people worship?
To what do the people pay great devotion?
What are the priests called?

not make men good, or wise, or happy. It does not teach them how to live well in this world, or how to make due preparation for another.

The Chinese are rather shorter than the Americans. They are of a pale yellow complexion. A man who is very fat, is always thought to be handsome. Little feet are thought to be indispensable to ladies ; in order to make their feet small, tight bandages are put on them, when they are infants, and continued till they cease to grow; consequently, the women are nearly all cripples.

The Emperor and his family, are alone permitted to wear yellow clothes, the common people are allowed to wear only blue or black, and white is the color for mourning. The fashions of dress never change. The dress of

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What do the Chinese think of fat men ?
What strange opinions have they, in regard to the feet of women ?
Who alone are permitted to wear yellow clothes ?
What colors are worn by the common people ?
What is the color for mourning ?

some of the people will be seen by the pictures on the opposite page.

The character of the Chinese is by no means an agreeable one. There is nothing like education among the mass of the people. The women are kept in a state of ignorance, dependence, and seclusion. The men are servile, deceitful, and utterly regardless of truth. From the Emperor to the beggar, through every rank of society, through every grade of office, there is a system of cheating and hypocrisy, practised without scruple, and without remorse. The Europeans have found by experience, that no faith whatever can in general be reposed in the Chinese.

Thus I have given you a sketch of China. It is one of the most extensive kingdoms, and by far the most populous, in the world. Enjoying a delightful climate, and a fertile soil, a land beautifully diversified by hills and valleys, and watered with hundreds of rivers;

What of the character of the people?

it is still rather painful, than pleasant, to contemplate it. However beautiful is the aspect of nature, still, if the people of a country are degraded, by the influence of a despotic government and an idolatrous religion, that country is unhappy.

CHAPTER VII.

Parley tells about Tartary and the Tartars.

I AM afraid my account of China has been a tedious one. I will now tell you of another country, the people of which you may think still more singular than the Chinese. To the north and west of China is a country, called Tartary. It is nearly in the middle of Asia, and is often called Central Asia. It is in general a very elevated country, nearly surrounded by mountains.

This region, spreading out to an immense extent, and including a territory more than

twice as large as the United States, is thinly inhabited by various wandering hordes, scattered over the country, who are known under the general name of Tartars.

The people in their personal appearance have a strong resemblance to our American Indians, though they are somewhat shorter. They do not settle in towns, and pursue various kinds of business, as people do here. On the contrary, they lead a wandering life, and look with contempt upon those who live in fixed habitations and pursue regular employments.

The Tartars do not till the land, nor do vegetables form scarcely any part of their food. They live chiefly upon meat, and are very fond of horseflesh, mutton and venison.

They have plenty of milk, butter, and cheese. They prefer mare's milk to any

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How extensive is Tartary?
Whom do the Tartars resemble?
How do they live?

other. Of this they make a strong spirit of which they are very fond. The houses of this people consist of tents which are formed of sticks stuck in the ground and covered with felt, a coarse sort of cloth.

The Tartars have a great many horses of a fine breed, they are excellent riders and are almost constantly on horseback. It has been said that they eat, drank, and slept on horseback, but this like some other travellers' stories is not true.

They are very expert in the use of lances; these are long weapons twice the length of a man's body with an iron point at one end. They are used in war and in hunting wild animals. The Tartars throw them with such skill and force as to make them pass entirely through the body of a man or deer at the distance of six or seven rods.

They are very dexterous also in the use of

Describe the houses of the Tartars.
In what are the Tartars expert?
How do the Tartars use the lance?

the bow and arrow, in which they appear to be fully equal to the American Indians. These people are exceedingly fond of the chase. Large numbers of them go together on horseback in pursuit of deer and other animals. The swiftness of the horses, the boldness of the riders, and the eagerness and skill of the hunters, render these amusements very animating.

The Tartars are generally Mahometans, though some of them profess other religions. Among other curious customs which belong to them, the Tartars when they bury a man, bury with him his best horse, and such other articles as he possessed which they esteem of the greatest value. These, they imagine will be useful to him in the other world.

I might tell you much more about this singular people, for they have many curious customs and are a very celebrated race. Having

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What other weapons do the Tartars use ?
What is the religion of the Tartars ?
What singular custom have the Tartars ?

a warlike disposition, and living in a country that is in general barren, they have often made inroads upon their more wealthy neighbours.

China has been many times conquered and overrun by them; and the present Emperor of China is a descendant of a Tartar prince that once conquered the country. It was, as I have told you, to interrupt the invasions of the bold Tartars that the great Chinese wall was built.

These people have also frequently descended upon India, and carried off immense riches, from that country. They have, in fact, at different periods of time, spread themselves over almost every portion of Asia, and subjected the inhabitants to their dominion.

At the present time, however, these various tribes are subject to the Emperor of China, and their country now passes under the general name of Chinese Tartary.

Why was the Chinese wall built?
What have the Tartars frequently done in respect to India?
To whom are the Tartar tribes now subject?

CHAPTER VIII.

Parley gives an account of Thibet.

I MUST not omit to tell you something about another remarkable country, subject to China. This is Thibet, a country of lofty mountains and deep valleys, and abounding in rocky precipices, roaring cataracts, and peaks, whose tall summits are always covered with snow. On the southern boundary of this country are the loftiest mountains in the world. These are called the Himmaleh mountains.

They are more than one hundred times as high, as the tallest steeple in New England. They have never been ascended to the top, by any human foot: their peaks are always covered with masses of snow and ice, which do not disappear even in summer.

No living thing ascends these awful heights, except some surefooted goats, and solitary

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What kind of a country is Thibet?
How high are the Himmaleh mountains?

birds, that occasionally wander to them. At a distance, the traveller looks upon these stupendous works of nature, with wonder and amazement.

When the sun shines upon the glittering tops of these mountains, they seem like magnificent cities of gold and silver, with towers and steeples and palaces. When the shadows of evening fall upon them, these seeming cities vanish, and the mountains look like a cloud, heaving its mighty front across the sky, and threatening all around with the coming tempest.

The interior of Thibet is but little known. Few travellers have ever penetrated into these wild regions. The inhabitants appear to be a mild race of Tartars. They have a species of goat, which produces the fine wool, of which the Cashmere shawls are made. This wool is carried to Cashmere, in India, and there made into shawls.

What can you tell of the inhabitants of Thibet?
What kind of goat have they among them?

These shawls are so much prized, both in our country and in Europe, that they sell for three or four hundred dollars. Most of those that are brought here, are sold for from one to two hundred dollars. These are generally second hand articles. They are first worn by the Hindoos on their heads for turbans. After their beauty is in some degree lost, they are dressed over, and sent to this country.

Thibet is chiefly celebrated as being the seat of the Grand Lama. This is the god worshipped throughout a very considerable part of Asia. He lives in a great temple upon the mountains. In this temple are said to be ten thousand rooms, which are filled with various images, and idols of gold and silver. Immense numbers of pilgrims, from nearly all parts of Asia, are constantly flocking to this temple, to pay their homage to the Grand Lama.

The people of Thibet say, that this object of their devotion is a man, into whose body

TEMPLE OF THE GRAND LAMA.

the spirit of god has entered. When the man dies, they say that the deity then enters the body of another man, and thus renders himself perpetually visible to his creatures.

The man that has, as they suppose, thus become their deity, sits cross-legged upon a throne, and receives the homage of his worshippers. The Thibetians pretend that a divine odour is constantly exhaled from the body of their god, which renders it peculiarly delightful to be in his presence.

They also say, that rivers burst from the rocks, and flow forth at his command, and that flowers spring up, and bud and blossom in his footprints. All this the worshippers of the Grand Lama say, and doubtless believe. They believe, too, that his power can save them from misery on earth, and give them happiness hereafter.

But it is of course a delusion. We who are blessed with a knowledge of the true religion, cannot but look with wonder upon the super-

stition of these ignorant Thibetians. Let us remember, however, that for our superior advantages, we are indebted to that Good Being, who has ordered all things well. Let us remember, also, that much will be required of them to whom much is given.

CHAPTER VIII.

Some account of Japan. A short method of saying Prayers.

I AM afraid you will think this is all a dull story. But consider that I am telling you of people who live on the other side of the globe. We are apt to be so much occupied with things around us, as to be inattentive to what is going on elsewhere.

We look up, and see the skies above us; we look abroad, and see the sun shining around us; and we imagine, that we are on the very top of the earth, that the sun rises for us, that

the seasons,—spring, summer, autumn, and winter, come and go only for our benefit.

But this is not so. We are no more on the top of it than the Chinese, the Tartars, or the Thibetians. The sun rises on them as well as on us. The skies are over their heads, the moon and the stars shed their light on them; they, as well as we, have hopes and fears, joys and sorrows. They have even more populous cities, more extensive empires, and can boast a history more ancient, and more renowned, than our own. Is it not interesting then; is it not useful; is it not necessary, if we would be wise, to study the character of other nations?

You will undoubtedly say, yes. I shall therefore proceed to tell you about Japan. I think you will be amused with the account I shall give you.

Japan consists of a group of islands, as I have before said, to the east of Asia. The

whole of these islands are in extent about three times as large as New England, yet they have a population about double that of the whole of the United States!

The country is full of mountains and hills, yet these are everywhere cultivated, and present the most beautiful scenes. In skill and industry, these people seem to surpass the Chinese.

Japan is very subject to earthquakes. The people are obliged to build their houses low, to prevent their being shaken down by these dreadful convulsions of nature. The thunder and lightning are terrible in this country, during the summer.

The Japanese are a very cleanly people. They esteem the Europeans a dirty race. They are also very polite and ceremonious.

Its extent? Its population?
What of the country?
To what is Japan subject?
Why do the people build their houses low in Japan?
What can you tell of the Japanese?

They have books to instruct them how to behave, on all occasions. These books even lay down rules for drinking a glass of water with propriety.

The people of Japan, in their personal appearance, bear a strong resemblance to the Chinese. Their religion, also, resembles that of China. They are very superstitious, and believe every hill and mountain to be the seat of some divinity. When they are travelling, they think it their duty to say a great many prayers to the gods of the several places which they pass. They have an ingenious contrivance for saving time, to such travellers as may be in a hurry.

This consists of a machine, formed in the following manner. A post is set upright in the ground, in the top of which an iron bar is fixed, so as to turn easily round with a stroke of the hand. On this bar, a prayer to the di-

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What of their religion?
What contrivance have the Japanese for saying prayers?

JAPANESE PRAYING MACHINE.

vinity of the place is engraved. The turning this round once, is deemed equal to saying the prayer once.

A single stroke of the hand being sufficient to turn the bar round several times, the traveller may offer a great many prayers without being much delayed on his journey. This is certainly a cheap way of worshipping; I think the Japanese, however, cannot suppose their gods to be very wise, else they would not imagine that they would suffer such tricks to be put upon them.

Formerly Europeans were admitted into Japan, and the Christian religion was propagated, to a considerable extent, by Portuguese missionaries; but the government of Japan grew jealous, and at length banished all Europeans from the kingdom. A dreadful persecution then commenced, against those Japanese who had embraced Christianity.

The most cruel tortures were inflicted on them. Roasting alive was one of the most

merciful punishments granted to these sufferers. Forty thousand people perished in this horrible persecution. Europeans are still excluded from Japan; and a rock, about sixty rods in length, occupied by the Dutch for purposes of trade, is the only spot in the whole empire where foreigners are permitted to live.

CHAPTER X.

Parley meets with an Adventure. Tales about Tea.

I HAVE now given you a short account of China, and the tributary countries of Tartary and Thibet, and also of the adjacent empire of Japan. It is perhaps time for me to return to my own story, and tell you what happened to me at Canton.

I have told you before, that the Chinese will not allow foreigners to enter their walled

What place is there in Japan where foreigners are permitted to live?

cities nor travel in their country. This I knew very well; but one day, I was passing by one of the gates of the city which was open, no person was near at the time. I saw that the gate opened into a long street, where there was a crowd of people, and I was strongly tempted to pass in. I therefore walked slowly along, until I came to the gate. I was yet unobserved, and ventured a little way into the street. Meeting with no obstruction, I passed along, and had gone six or eight rods into the city, when I was suddenly arrested.

A Chinese appeared before me, and in a very threatening manner, signified to me that I must turn about. At the same instant, he uttered a loud cry, and several other men came running toward me.

By this time, I thought it best to retreat, and turning round, began to walk toward the gate; but one of the men, determining to prevent my escape, passed rapidly by me, and placing himself between me and the gate, faced

me, and flourished a large stick (with an iron point at one end,) over his head.

I walked resolutely towards him; and as I came near, he edged out of my way, still flourishing his weapon, and uttering loud cries. After I passed him, I walked pretty fast, for the crowd of people thickened behind me, and their cries now filled the air. I got clear of them however, and arrived safe at my lodgings. I never afterwards attempted to enter within the walls of the city of Canton.

Fond as I am of telling good stories, particularly those that relate to myself, I must still confess, that this is the only adventure I had in Canton. I remained there only a few weeks, and being confined to that portion of the city which is occupied by Europeans, I had few opportunities for gaining information.

What I have told you about China, I have gathered from other travellers. Christian missionaries were once admitted into this country, who had pretty good opportunities for collec-

ting information. They are now excluded by the government; but they have given us many interesting accounts of the country and the people.

The king of England, about the year 1793, sent an ambassador to the Emperor of China. This ambassador was Lord Macartney. He went to Pekin, and was graciously received by the Emperor. He then came to Canton, and finally returned to England. The story of this embassy has been published in a book.

It tells us many interesting things about Pekin, the Emperor, and the interior of China. One thing I must not neglect to tell you about, and that is, the gathering of tea. The tea tree grows naturally to the height of eight or ten feet, but the people cut off the branches, and reduce it to the size of a small bush. It produces a pod like the nasturtium, which you know is sometimes used for pickling.

These pods are bitter and useless. The leaves of the tree are the valuable part.

These are picked off, usually in the morning while the dew is upon them, they are then rolled on iron plates, and dried in the sun.

The best kind of tea is carefully rolled, leaf by leaf, by women. After the tea is prepared, it is put into boxes lined with thin sheets of lead, and trodden down with the naked feet. Thus packed, it is carefully and closely covered, and sent to market.

The people of China do not drink their tea as we do, with sugar and milk. They take it without these accompaniments, and use it rather for health than for pleasure. It is remarkable, that this plant flourishes in no other parts of the world than China and Japan.

It grows spontaneously in both countries, yet in China it is cultivated to an immense extent. It sometimes grows on high rocks and ledges, which are not easily accessible. The ingenious Chinese have monkeys, which they

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How is tea prepared for market by the Chinese?
In what countries only does the tea plant grow?

MONKEYS GATHERING TEA.

teach to strip the tea leaves from the trees, in such situations.

The monkeys, when they do well, are sure to receive from their masters something to eat. If they behave ill, they are equally certain of being beaten.

Tea was first brought from China to Europe, about 200 years ago. Previous to that time, it was not known in Europe. It was many years after, that it began to be used in New England. I remember very well, to have heard a man who lived in the interior of Massachusetts, give an account of the first tea he ever saw.

His father had received a small quantity from a friend in Boston. The family had heard of tea, but had never learned the mystery of cooking it. In the first place, a portion of it was boiled in a kettle, and then they attempted to eat the leaves.

These they found very bitter, and concluded

When was tea first brought to Europe?

that they had not hit upon the right method of cooking it. Then they put some into a pan, and fried it. This answered no better purpose than boiling. Several other experiments were tried but without success, and the tea was laid aside as a useless article. This happened less than a hundred years ago.

CHAPTER XI.

Description of Malacca and the Malays.

I HAD now been about five weeks in Canton; and our ship being loaded, with a cargo of tea and silk goods, we set out on our return to America. We descended the river of Canton, passed Macao, and entered the China sea. This we crossed, and passing between the Asiatic islands, we were soon upon the Indian ocean.

As nothing very remarkable happened during our voyage to America, I shall take advantage

of the interval between this, and our arrival, to tell you of some other countries in Asia, than those I have described.

Malacca is the most southern part of Asia. It is a large peninsula which projects far into the sea.

Sumatra, an island as large as the six New England states, lies very near to Malacca. A narrow branch of the sea passes between the two, called the Straits of Malacca.

The inhabitants of Malacca are called Malays. They are a very peculiar race of people. They are spread over most of the islands in the Pacific ocean. They are in general, fierce, treacherous, and savage.

Malacca has a climate of perpetual summer. The trees are always arrayed in green. The ripe fruit, and the opening blossom, are suspended from the same branches, but the woods are filled with tigers and leopards, which make it extremely dangerous to travel in this country.

Describe Malacca. What of the Malays?
What is the climate of Malacca?

In the rivers are great numbers of crocodiles. Sometimes the tigers when attempting to cross the rivers in pursuit of antelopes, are caught, and killed by the crocodiles. Perhaps it was in Malacca, that the incident I related in the beginning of this book, happened.

There is a good deal of gold in Malacca. It is washed down from the mountains in small particles, and is gathered by the natives in the form of dust. In some of the mountains there is a great deal of tin, but the chiefs who rule over the Malays, will not let the people get it. They have an absurd opinion that spirits who inhabit these mountains would be offended, and do mischief to the country if the tin were carried away.

What metals are found in Malacca?

CHAPTER XII.

Account of Chin India, and the Birman Empire. Grand procession. Mr. and Mrs. Judson.

To the north of Malacca is a country which is called on the map Chin India. It is sometimes called Farther India. It embraces several distinct kingdoms. These are the Birman empire, Tonquin, Cochin China, Cambodia, Laos, and Siam. The inhabitants of these various kingdoms, bear a general resemblance to the Chinese, though they are less civilized.

The climate is very warm, and produces many aromatic or spicy trees, and a profusion of beautiful flowers. The cultivation of the land, however, is generally neglected.

The Birman Empire, is by far, the largest and most powerful of the kingdoms of Farther

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What kingdoms in Chin India?
Describe the climate and country.
Which the largest kingdom in Chin India?

India. It was in this country that Mr. and Mrs. Judson, of whom you have perhaps heard, met very extraordinary adventures, a few years ago. They were American missionaries sent to teach the truths of Christianity to the Birmese.

The people of this country are idolaters and worship images: they are also very superstitious. Now, Mr. and Mrs. Judson were sent to instruct the people in the true religion of Jesus Christ. It was but six or seven years ago that they were at Ava, which is the capital of the Birman Empire.

It is a great city, with multitudes of people in it. The Emperor's palace, there, is truly a splendid edifice. While Mr. and Mrs. Judson were at Ava, the Emperor and his family came to reside at this palace. They were attended by an immense procession of officers and soldiers, viceroys dressed in their robes of state, horses and carriages of all descriptions,

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What can you say of the Birmese?
What of Ava?

hundreds of elephants with people riding upon them, and crowds of men women and children.

Among the rest was a beautiful white elephant, splendidly decorated with costly ornaments, and attended by persons in rich attire. This elephant was an object of great respect, and the people fell upon their faces, and reverenced it as it passed along. On this occasion Mrs. Judson had a seat in a beautiful garden. Here the king and queen came, and they had all a rich banquet. It was truly a brilliant spectacle, and far surpassed everything of the kind, the Missionaries had ever seen before.

CHAPTER XIII.

Story of Mr. and Mrs. Judson.

Mr. and Mrs. Judson had been sometime at Ava, when news came, that some British soldiers had come to Rangoon, and taken that place. Rangoon is a large town belonging to

the Birman Empire, near the place where the Irrawaddy empties into the Bay of Bengal.

You must understand that the British at Hindoostan have large possessions. This country lies directly west of the Birman Empire, as you will see on the map. Now the British at Hindoostan were at war with the Birmese, and their troops had come to fight against the country.

The Emperor of Burmah, as soon as he heard that the British troops had captured Rangoon, became very jealous of Mr. Judson. He suspected that this missionary was the secret friend and agent of the English.

So one day, just before dinner, an officer with a dozen Birmese, rushed into Mr. Judson's house. They were accompanied by a man with a spotted face, whose business it was, to torture or kill, such persons as were condemned by the government.

Mr. Judson was immediately seized, thrown

upon the floor, and strongly bound with a cord. He was then dragged away, and treated in the most cruel manner. While they were taking him along, he was thrown forcibly upon the ground, and the cords around his body were drawn so tight, that he could scarcely breathe. He was then taken to the death prison, and the door closed upon him.

An officer was afterwards sent to Mrs. Judson's house. He asked her a great many questions, and then went away. He placed a guard of ten men around the house, forbidding any one to enter. Mrs. Judson now took the children into an inner room, and barred the door.

But the men without, threatened with violent language, to break it down, if she did not unbar the door. This she refused to do. They then took two of her servants, and treated them in a very rough manner. At length she pacified them, by promising to give them presents in the morning.

The next morning Mrs. Judson learned the

situation of her husband. He was in the death prison, and loaded with chains. She went to the governor, and obtained permission to see him. She saw him lying on the floor, in a dark and gloomy place.

Mr. Judson could not walk, on account of his chains, but he crept toward his wife, and gave her some directions how to proceed in endeavouring to obtain his release. She was allowed to stay but a few moments, for the rude keepers of the prison hurried her away.

She now went to a relation of the queen, and begged her to petition the queen to intercede with the king, for the release of her husband. The lady was affected by Mrs. Judson's entreaties, and promised to do as she desired. The next day Mrs. Judson went to know the result, and learned that the queen refused to do anything about it.

Mrs. Judson returned to her house. Pretty soon, officers of the government came and took away what money, and other valuable articles,

they could find in the house. Then, months passed away, and Mr. Judson continued in prison. He was shut up with one hundred other persons.

It was now summer, and the summer at Ava is excessively hot. The poor prisoners suffered great distress from the heat, the want of fresh air, and the weight of their chains. Mrs. Judson failed not to exert herself for the relief, not only of her husband, but of the other prisoners.

She went to one officer, and another, and another, and begged, besought, and prayed, but it was all in vain. At length she was taken sick, and confined to her house several months. During this period, the sufferings of the prisoners were increased, and Mr. Judson at last sent her word that they were all shut up in an inner prison, and loaded with five pair of chains each.

After awhile, Mrs. Judson was able to go out. She then went to the governor, and begged him to permit her husband, at least, to

be placed in a more comfortable situation. But this was refused. He was soon after taken with a fever. Then again she went to the governor. Worn out with her entreaties, he permitted Mr. Judson to be taken to another part of the prison.

He was placed in a little hovel made of bamboos. Here his wife was allowed to come and take care of him, and though he was very sick, these seemed to them happy moments. Mrs. Judson was one day with Mr. Judson, when the governor sent for her in great haste. She was very much alarmed, but did not hesitate to go.

When she arrived at his house, he detained her awhile, under some trifling pretence. While she was there, all the prisoners were carried away, and Mr. Judson among them. Mrs. Judson could not learn at first the cause of their removal, nor where they were taken to, but she expected that they were gone to be executed.

Her distress was now indescribable. She went to her house, never expecting to see her husband more. A stranger in a strange land, surrounded by a cruel people, a woman without protection, or defence, with an infant three months old, her situation was truly desolate. Yet she drew consolation from her religion in this hour of sorrow, and received strength from that unseen Friend of the distressed, to whom she appealed for help.

The next day she discovered that her husband was still living, and that he, and the other prisoners had been taken to a town at a considerable distance. She determined to follow them. So taking her little infant with her, she proceeded a part of the way in a boat, and a part of the way in a cart. At length she reached the place, and found her husband among the other prisoners.

They were all tied two and two, and had suffered the most cruel treatment on the journey. It was now night, and Mrs. Judson

MRS. JUDSON GOING DOWN THE RIVER IN A BOAT.

found great difficulty in procuring shelter. At length the jailer permitted her to occupy a little miserable room in his house.

Mrs. Judson's personal sufferings were now greatly increased. She had under her care, two Birmese children, whose parents had given them to her. One of these children was soon taken with the small pox. Mr. Judson's feet were also so much torn, and blistered by the journey from Ava, that he could neither stand nor walk.

The other Birmese child was soon after taken with the small pox, and then her infant was taken also. At length, worn out with fatigue, care, and anxiety, Mrs. Judson herself fell sick. Still, in this situation, she determined to go to Ava, and get some medicines which she had there.

Accordingly she performed the journey, and in a few days, returned. But when she arrived at her miserable home, she was so much exhausted, that she could not stand. She had

a faithful Hindoo servant, who came to the door to receive her. She was so pale and wasted, that the kind hearted Hindoo burst into tears.

Mrs. Judson was incapable of farther exertion. She lay down upon the mat, for she had no bed, and here for two months she remained. She had no food for her infant, and there was no milk to be obtained for it in the village.

It now seemed that the poor babe must die for want of food. But at length the jailer permitted Mr. Judson to leave his prison, for a little while at a time. So he carried the child to such women in the village as had children, and who would permit the little starving creature to take a part of the nourishment designed for their offspring.

Having been at this place a prisoner for six months, Mr. Judson was at length released. He was sent by the Birman government, to a considerable distance, for the purpose of trans-

lating some papers, while Mrs. Judson returned to her house at Ava.

Here she was seized, in the absence of her husband, with the spotted fever, and brought so low, that the people around her thought she was dead. But as if by miracle, she revived. At length her husband returned, and being set at liberty, he was then united to his family.

The British soldiers who had captured Rangoon, as I have told you, prosecuted their march towards the Burmese capital. They were repeatedly attacked, but the superiority of the British, over the Burmese troops, enabled the former, constantly to triumph over their enemies.

At length the British troops approached the capital. The people were in the greatest consternation. The emperor, who had proudly refused to make peace with the English, now sent for Mr. Judson. Through his influence, and that of some other individuals, peace was finally concluded, and the British army took their departure.

Mr. and Mrs. Judson also left Ava and proceeded to Rangoon. In the neighbourhood of this place they prepared to prosecute their grand design, of introducing Christianity among the ignorant, and superstitious inhabitants of Farther India.

But Mrs. Judson's health was impaired by her sufferings beyond the recovery of medicine. While her husband was absent on a journey of three or four months, she was seized with a fever. Her enfeebled constitution could not withstand this shock, and she died at Amherst, near Rangoon, on the 26th of October 1826.

She has left behind her a name, that can never perish. I have never known a more beautiful example, of piety, tenderness, and fidelity, blended with true courage, than is afforded by the life of this admirable woman.

CHAPTER XIV.

Parley tells about Hindoostan, the Hindoos and a Hurricane.

I SHALL now tell you of a people, who may be regarded as the most interesting of all the inhabitants of Asia, I mean the Hindoos. They live in Hindoostan, and are unlike any other people. The inhabitants of Chin India, with the exception of the Malays, including the Chinese, the Japanese, the Tartars, and Thibetians, have all a general resemblance to each other, and are supposed to have sprung from the same origin.

But the Hindoos, in personal appearance, in disposition, in character, and in religion are a distinct and peculiar nation. Their number is truly immense. I suppose there are more than ten times as many people in Hindoostan, as in all the United States.

What nations in Asia, are supposed to be of the same origin?
What is the number of inhabitants in Hindoostan?

In Hindoostan, only two seasons are known, the wet and the dry. During the wet or rainy season, great quantities of rain fall, the rivers suddenly rise and overflow their banks, and often sweep off the inhabitants with their houses. During the dry season, the earth is frequently so parched, that every leaf, and flower is withered to the ground.

Sometimes dreadful famines take place for the want of rain. In 1793, there was a great famine in consequence of drought; some of the people were so distressed for food, that they sold their children for a few pounds of rice.

They have never any cold weather in this country. In a great part of it, they have never either snow or ice. In such warm countries, the people are not obliged to have thick woollen clothes. The Hindoos wear but little clothing, and this is made of cotton or silk. Their houses are not large and strong like ours, but

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What of the seasons in Hindoostan?
Describe the dress of the Hindoos.

they are little slender cabins, made of sticks of bamboo, roofed with the large leaves of the palm tree.

Hindoostan is subject to violent hurricanes with dreadful thunder and lightning. I suppose you have never witnessed a whirlwind. I will describe one to you. We will suppose it to be summer. All around is still and tranquil. The birds are quietly reposing amid the thick branches of the trees. The cattle lie stretched at length, sleeping in thoughtless security in the shade. The sun shines brightly over the landscape, and all nature bespeaks peace and repose.

But soon a small cloud is seen in the distance. It increases in size, and stretches far across the sky. It rapidly approaches; a rushing sound is heard on the distant hills. The cloud seems in great agitation. It moves onward whirling and boiling like the waters beneath a cataract.

The houses. Can you describe a hurricane?

The trees bow their heads before it. The grass and the grain, and all the slender plants are laid flat upon the ground. The houses tremble; the very hills are shaken. The sky is almost as black as night. A dreadful roar fills the ear, and fragments of wood, trees, and houses, lifted on the wind, are borne along through the air.

The crash of falling trees, the rending of houses in pieces, the tumbling of rocks down the sides of hills, the bellowing of cattle, the cries of people in distress, with the voice of the tempest, are borne on the gale.

Suddenly the hurricane ceases. Stillness succeeds to the dreadful uproar. The cloud is seen hurrying away over the hills, carrying with it the same destruction it has left behind. The inhabitants come forth, and witness the ruin that is spread around them. Many of their dwellings are prostrate, their crops cut off, their cattle killed.

Such is a hurricane. We have very seldom

a hurricane in our country, but they are very common in hot climates. In the West Indies they occur every year, and in Hindoostan they are very frequent.

CHAPTER XV.

About Elephants, Tigers, Rhinoceroses and Serpents.

In Hindoostan, there are a great many wild animals. Among them are the elephant, tiger, and rhinoceros. Some of the elephants are caught when young, and tamed. They then become very gentle, and are useful in carrying burdens, and for taking people from one place to another, on their backs.

The tiger of this country is called the royal tiger. It is the largest and most powerful of the kind. It is a match for the lion in strength,

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What of hurricanes in hot climates?
In the West Indies?
In Hindoostan?
What wild animals are common in Hindoostan?

A MAN CARRYING OFF YOUNG TIGERS.

and is much more ferocious and active. The tigers are often hunted by the Hindoos, but it is dangerous sport.

Tigers are sometimes brought to this country for shows. They are taken when young, in the following manner. A hunter discovers a den where there are young tigers, and waits till the mother is gone. He then goes to the den, and takes away the little tigers, of which there are generally three or four.

They are beautiful little animals, as soft as kittens. Pretty soon the old tigress comes back, and discovers that her young ones are gone. She smells the track of the hunter, and follows him swiftly, her mouth open, her eyes flashing, and her claws ready and eager to tear in pieces, the man who has robbed her of her little ones.

The hunter, knowing that he will be pursued, flies rapidly through the thicket. Soon he hears the bounding tigress behind him. He

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How are the tigers usually taken that are brought to this country for shows?

looks back, and sees her coming. He now drops one of the young ones, and continues his flight.

The tigress soon discovers her young one, takes it up in her mouth, and hurries back with it. Having deposited it in some safe place, she again pursues the hunter. He soon sees her coming again, and drops another of the young tigers.

This is taken up, and carried to the spot where the other is placed. Before the tigress can again approach the hunter, he has probably arrived at some village, or reached a boat, or, in some other way, placed himself out of danger; thus having secured one or more of the little tigers.

The rhinoceros is almost as large as the elephant, and seems in many respects to resemble a hog. A young rhinoceros was brought to Boston a short time ago. A great many people went to see him, and perhaps you saw him also.

His skin is thick and rough, and seems a good deal too large for him. There are folds in it, across his shoulders and back, and around his legs, which have a very singular appearance. It is said that a bullet will not penetrate the skin of one of these animals of mature age. t is very pleasant to see such creatures when they are put in a cage, or fastened with a chain, but I think it would not be agreeable to meet such huge animals in the fields and forests.

I must not forget to tell you, that in Hindoostan there are great numbers of serpents, some of which are very large, and some very poisonous. There are such numbers of them, that they breed in the very towns; and Bishop Heber, who has written a very interesting book about Hindoostan, says, that they sometimes come into the houses, and are found even in the sleeping apartments.

CHAPTER XVI.

Religion of the Hindoos.

The religion of the Hindoos is very curious. By this, the people are divided into four classes, or castes. The first class are called bramins. They are generally priests, and have the charge of religious matters. The second class are the soldiers. The third class are the husbandmen and merchants. The fourth class are common laborers in various employments.

Now, the people of these four different classes never marry with each other. They do not live, nor eat together. The three under castes are obliged to pay the most profound respect to the bramins. The people of the fourth caste are required to serve the bramins without pay, and prostrate themselves before them whenever they meet.

What are the four castes into which the Hindoos are divided?

A man who had been to Calcutta, which is a great town in Hindoostan, once told me, that, while there, he knew a little fellow who was clerk in some store. He was, however, a bramin. Near by, there was a very rich Hindoo merchant, who belonged to one of the under castes. Very often these two met each other, and on all occasions, the rich old Hindoo merchant was obliged to make the most profound reverence, to the little bramin.

The Hindoos have a great many idols, and worship a great many different gods. Some of these they imagine to be good, and some evil beings. They have a great many temples, and spend a great deal of time in the various services of religion. Yet it is remarkable, that the tendency of their devotion is not to make them virtuous.

The religion of Jesus Christ teaches men to do to others, as they would have others do to them. It teaches them to love truth, to

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What can you say of the religion of the Hindoos?

practise charity, and do good to all mankind. It teaches them to avoid lying, cruelty, injustice, and bearing false witness against a neighbour. All these things are earnestly taught by the Bible.

But the religion of the Hindoos teaches not these things. It tells them if they will practise certain ceremonies, drown their children in the rivers, allow themselves to be buried alive in the earth, tear their bodies with hooks, cut their flesh with knives, and other things like these, that their gods will then look upon them with favor.

How much happier are we, who possess the true gospel, than these Hindoos, whose minds are darkened by a false religion. It is impossible for any kind hearted person to consider the state of these Hindoos, without wishing that they might be blessed with a knowledge of the Bible. They are naturally an amiable and interesting people, but have the misfortune to be subject to the worst of all heathen superstitions.

A great many missionaries have been sent to them, who have endeavoured to make them acquainted with the Bible. Their success has not been so great as we could have wished, but we may still hope, that this part of the human family, may yet become acquainted with that salvation, which is brought to light by the gospel.

One thing is certain, our religion is the best gift which God has imparted to man, and the diffusion of it among ignorant nations, is one of the highest and noblest enterprises, to which a man can devote himself.

I have told you that the British have large possessions in Hindoostan. Calcutta is a very large town, where a great many English people live, and where many of the houses are built after the European fashion.

A great many vessels are constantly passing and repassing, between England and Calcutta. Many vessels go from this country to trade at that place. These vessels bring from thence,

silk and cotton goods, Cashmere shawls, spices, gums, and many other things.

The British have a great many soldiers in India. They have conquered certain parts of India, and hold the people subject to them. They have also contrived to make many of the chiefs or princes, who rule over the people in various parts of Hindoostan, dependent upon them.

They receive a great deal of money from these princes. They have in fact the almost entire dominion of the whole of Hindoostan, and since the war in the Birman Empire, which I told you of, they have great power in that kingdom also.

CHAPTER XVII.

Parley returns to America. A Waterspout. James Jenkins.

I BELIEVE it is now time for me to finish my story, of my homeward voyage from China.

What have the British done in India?

We sailed across the Indian ocean, doubled the Cape of Good Hope, and entered the Atlantic. We stopped at St. Helena a short time, to take in water. It was at this place that Napoleon Buonaparte, some years after, was imprisoned. Here he died in 1821, and on this lonely island of rocks he remains buried.

When we were in the latitude of the West Indies, we saw a waterspout. This was truly a sublime spectacle. It appeared like a thick cloud in the air. This was greatly agitated. The sea beneath it was also in violent commotion, and an immense column of water, whirling and foaming, seemed to be drawn up from the sea to the clouds.

Our Captain was afraid that we should become involved in this waterspout, and that when it burst it would fall upon our ship, and sink it in the sea. But this misfortune did not

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Where is Buonaparte buried?
Describe the waterspout that Parley saw.

happen to us; it soon disappeared, we sailed on our voyage and in a short time arrived at Boston.

I had been absent from home several years. I hardly need tell you of the joy I felt on landing, and finding all my friends well. Again I returned thanks to my kind Protector, for preserving me through so many dangers, and for a happy restoration to my home, and my country.

There was one thing that in some measure abated the joy of my return. This related to my friend James Jenkins. I have told you about him, in my tales of America and Europe. He sailed for India about the time I sailed to the Mediterranean sea. He was mate of the vessel, and was bound to Bombay, a town situated on the western shore of Hindoostan.

A rumor had been brought by a vessel, that his ship was lost in the Arabian sea in a storm, and that all on board had perished.

Where is Bombay?

Nearly three years had elapsed, and nothing had been heard of the ship. The general belief was, that the vessel had sunk, and that all on board had perished. Their friends considered them as buried in the sea. I was reluctantly compelled to believe, that my honest and excellent friend Jenkins, was sleeping in a watery grave.

A few weeks after my return, I sat by my fireside. It was in December, and a snow storm from the northeast, had just set in. I was musing upon some of the past events of my life, and particularly upon those in which Jenkins had participated. I thought of the battle of Bunker Hill, in which we fought side by side. I remembered my adventures among the western Indians, which were so intimately connected with his own. I recollected our companionship in Europe, and recalled many other circumstances which had made him interesting to me.

I was thus dwelling upon his memory, and

bringing back to my imagination, his harsh, but honest features, when I heard some one rapping at the door. I bid the person come in, the door was opened, and a large man, covered with snow, entered. He had on a sailor's hat, and a pea jacket, which is a sailor's great coat. He first stamped on the floor to knock off the snow, then shook his shaggy coat, took off his hat, and came up to me.

He had the features of Jenkins, but could it be he? I thought, at first, it must be a dream, but when I heard his hearty voice, and felt the clench of his hard hand, I knew him to be the real James Jenkins!

CHAPTER XVIII.

Adventures of James Jenkins.

You will easily believe that our meeting was a joyous one. We sat down together, and Jenkins in a few words told me his adventures.

He afterwards related them to me more minutely, and I will now give you some account of them.

He had nearly completed his voyage, and was within a few days' sail of Bombay, when his vessel was struck with a sudden squall. The sails were all set, and such was the prodigious force of the wind, that the vessel was instantly capsized, that is, thrown over on her side.

The masts were cut away, and she righted But a hurricane soon followed, and the vessel was tossed so violently upon the waves, that she soon sprang a leak. The men labored at the pumps, but in spite of all their efforts, she gradually filled with water.

Two days and two nights, she was kept afloat by incessant exertion. At length, worn out with fatigue, watching and anxiety, the men relaxed their efforts, the storm continued, and the vessel was soon nearly full of water. No hope remained now but in the long boat.

This was prepared, and some things were put into it. The captain then, and the sailors, all got into the boat, and put off to sea. It was night when they left the ship, but they could see it go down among the boiling waves. The storm still continued, and the boat was thrown hither and thither by the billows, as if it had been a mere plaything.

The storm continued during the night, but in the morning it ceased. But the sky was cloudy, and the poor seamen discovered to their great distress, that their compass, which they had put on board their boat, had been washed overboard.

I suppose you have heard of a mariner's compass. It is a very curious instrument, with a little piece of steel, which is called the needle, and which always points to the north. It is this valuable contrivance, which enables the seaman, when in the midst of the ocean to determine his course. Without it, the sailor, when at sea, is often utterly at a loss

which way to steer, and knows not whether he is going toward the place to which he is bound, or in the opposite direction.

This was the situation of Jenkins and his companions. The weather continued cloudy, and for several days they knew not in which direction they were going. They continued however to row forward, in the hope of meeting some vessel that might take them up.

For more than a week, they were in this situation. At length they discovered by the seaweed that they were approaching the shore. This filled their hearts with delight, for they had already exhausted their food, and for more than two days they had been entirely destitute of water.

By and by, they reached the land. It was a lonely desolate spot, presenting nothing to the view but an uneven desert of sand. The hearts of the poor seamen now sank within them. There was no human habitation in sight, and there were no traces, which seemed

to indicate the vicinity of man. A few ostriches fled affrighted across the desert, and these were the only living things that met the eyes of the wanderers.

Parched with thirst, and famishing for want of food, they reentered their boat, and coasted along the shore. Faint and weary they repeatedly landed, but all wore the same dry, barren, and desolate aspect.

At length they landed again, and determined to divide themselves into different parties, and go in search of water. Four of the men were so exhausted, that they lay down on the sand, and resigned themselves to their fate. The rest departed in various directions. Jenkins and one of the sailors went by themselves.

They proceeded a considerable distance, but found no water. The heat was now intolerable. The sand was so hot as to blister their feet in walking over it. The air was suffocating, and yet not a drop of water could be found.

SAILOR DYING OF THIRST.

The poor sailor who accompanied Jenkins, could proceed no farther. His tongue was so much swollen, and his mouth so dry, that he could not speak. Looking up with a piteous expression, he begged Jenkins to go forward, and leave him to his fate. But this the latter refused to do. He sat down by the poor man, and contributed all in his power to alleviate his distress.

Occupied in these humane, though unavailing efforts, Jenkins for sometime did not look around him. By and by he heard a noise, which caused him to look up. To his great surprise he saw that a man in a strange dress, was standing by his side, and that a loaded camel was a short distance from him.

Jenkins perceived at once that the man was an Arab. He begged him by signs to give him some water. The Arab handed him a leathern bottle containing several gallons. Jenkins applied it to the lips of the dying man, but it was too late; with a feeble groan,

he stretched himself upon the sand, and breathed no more.

Jenkins having refreshed himself with a draught of water from the bottle, was about to set out with it towards his companions. To this the Arab objected. Jenkins endeavoured to make him understand that he had friends at no great distance, who were dying for want of water.

But the Arab was immovable. Pretty soon about a dozen more Arabs came up, with as many camels. Jenkins was instantly seized, his hands were tied behind him, and he was placed on one of the camels.

For several days the party travelled over the desert. At length they came to a tribe consisting of several hundred Arabs, with a great multitude of cattle. They were living in tents, and subsisted chiefly upon the milk of the camels.

They had remarkably swift, and beautiful horses. Of these they were very fond. They

fed them with the greatest care, kept them sheltered under the same tents where the people slept, and caressed them as if they were their dearest companions.

Jenkins had no great difficulty in discovering that he was in Arabia, and that he was among one of those wandering tribes, who inhabit the vast deserts of that country.

CHAPTER XIX.

Some account of Arabia. Jenkins's Adventures continued.

I MUST now tell you a little about Arabia. It lies to the east of Egypt, and is separated from it by the Red sea. When the children of Israel fled from the persecutions of Pharaoh, they crossed the Red sea, and entered Arabia. It was here that they wandered about, forty years, in search of the land of promise, to which their prophets had directed them.

Mount Sinai, at the foot of which they en-

camped, and where Moses received the ten commandments from God, is still to be seen in the western part of this country. It was in Arabia too, that Job lived. The land of Uz is supposed to have been situated in the north-eastern part, not far from where Jenkins was taken by the Arabs.

Arabia is a very extensive country, and has about as many inhabitants as the whole of the United States. Those parts which border on the sea are generally fertile, but the whole interior consists of immense deserts. Along the sea, there are a good many towns and villages, but the deserts are occupied by roving tribes who possess large flocks. They live by pasturage, by the flesh and milk of their cows and camels, and by plundering all such travellers as come in their way. It was into the hands of one of these tribes, that Jenkins had the misfortune to fall.

Where is Mount Sinai?
Where was the land of Uz?
What of Arabia?

He soon found that his situation among these people was by no means a pleasant one. He was, in fact, reduced to slavery, and made to perform every species of drudgery. The Arabs being Mahometans, and finding that Jenkins was a Christian, looked upon him with great contempt, and seemed to delight in making his situation disagreeable.

But all this he bore with patience, silently resolving to seize the first opportunity to escape. But near six months elapsed before any chance of this kind was offered. At length, the cattle having devoured all the grass and shrubbery which grew upon the spot where they were, the tribe concluded to remove.

The tents were taken down, and rolled up. These, with the few articles of furniture, and the women and children, were placed on the camels. They now commenced their march, and proceeded across the desert. As the weather was excessively hot, they rested by

day, and travelled at night. They were guided by the stars in their course.

One day Jenkins perceived among the tribe a sudden panic, as if they were struck with fear. The men and women fell upon their faces and lay flat on the ground. The camels knelt down, and placed their noses close to the earth. Jenkins looked around for the cause of all this.

At a little distance, he saw a thick cloud of sand moving directly towards them. It appeared like a huge mountain coming to overwhelm them. Jenkins imitated the rest, and fell upon his face. The cloud rolled on, and buried the travellers beneath it. It was almost impossible to breathe, the air was so filled with sand.

At length it passed by. The people rose from the ground, and shook from them the sand, which had half covered them. They then proceeded on their journey. These mov-

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Describe the moving clouds of sand that Jenkins saw?

ing clouds are very common in these deserts, and sometimes travellers are buried so deeply in the sand, as to perish.

It was but two or three days after this, that a hot wind called the Simoon began to blow. The effects of this were dreadful. The stunted leaves, and flowers, which grew here and there, were almost instantly withered, as if they had been scorched by fire.

The horses ran out their tongues, as if in the greatest distress, and a number of the camels died. The people also suffered exceedingly from the suffocating and poisonous quality of the atmosphere. This lasted for two days. Then the Simoon passed by and the travellers continued on their route.

One night there was a sudden halt of the party. Then about thirty of the men mounted on their fleetest horses, and rode off in different directions. Jenkins could not imagine at first what this meant. He afterwards learn-

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Describe the Simoon.

ed that there was a caravan at no great distance.

This consisted of about one hundred camels and fifty people, several of them were merchants, who had with them a good deal of valuable merchandise. The thirty Arabs, though they set out in different directions, all suddenly united, and surrounding the caravan, fell upon the astonished travellers at the same instant.

There was little or no resistance offered, and the Arabs began their plunder; seizing upon the most valuable articles, they soon loaded their horses, and, left the caravan to pursue its route. They then returned to the tribe, loaded with their spoils.

At length the tribe arrived at a tolerably fertile spot in the desert. Here they determined to remain. Jenkins now learned, that they were not more than two hundred miles from the northeastern coast of Arabia. He therefore determined, as soon as possible, to

steal away silently, and take his chance of escape across the desert.

One night, when the sky was obscured by clouds, he silently left the tribe, and proceeded in an easterly direction. He had provided himself with a sword and a pair of pistols, and determined, if pursued, to resist to the utmost. He travelled the whole night, and in the morning hid himself beneath some thorny shrubs.

Here he slept a great part of the day. He had with him some dried camel's flesh, upon which he subsisted. He was fortunate in finding some water, though it was brackish. Toward night he again set out, and travelled with the utmost diligence till morning.

Thus for four days and four nights he pursued his solitary journey. On the fifth day, his meat being entirely gone, he began to feel the pressure of hunger. Fortunately he discovered a young Ostrich which he approached from behind a bush, and shot with his pistol.

He gathered a few dried branches of the

JENKINS ATTACKED BY AN ARAB.

acacia, a shrub which produces gum Arabic. These he set on fire with a flash of his pistol. By this fire he roasted a piece of the ostrich, which he found to be very good.

Scarcely had he finished his meal, when he saw a man on horseback, at a considerable distance, coming towards him. Jenkins immediately perceived that this man was attracted by the smoke. Very soon the horseman approached, and began to ride round him in a wide circle.

He came nearer and nearer, and Jenkins soon recognised him as one of the Arabs whose tribe he had left. Having rode around him several times, the horseman suddenly darted from his circular motion, and rode directly toward Jenkins. Whirling his sabre over his head, he came like an arrow shot from the bow. Jenkins was not unprepared. He stood with his pistol in one hand, and his sword in the other. He was a man of great strength and activity.

The Arab was within a few feet of him, with his sabre lifted in the air. It descended like lightning, and passed about an inch over the head of Jenkins, thus leaving him unharmed. The Arab escaped not so well. Jenkins discharged his pistol, but without effect. The horse however, affrighted, started suddenly aside, and threw the Arab on the ground. But he was instantly upon his feet, and he ran with great agility toward his horse. The trusty animal, at first, was running off with great speed, but when he heard the call of his master, he turned instantly round, put forward his ears and came trotting up to him, with the strongest tokens of interest and affection. The Arab leaped upon his back, and galloped off across the plain.

Jenkins now knowing his route was discovered, supposed that he should be immediately pursued by more than one of the Arabs. He therefore determined to press his journey with the utmost expedition. That day and the next night, he travelled without ceasing.

The aspect of the country now began to change. The land was considerably more elevated, and dates, palms, and other trees were scattered here and there over the landscape. The next morning he discovered the sea at no great distance. In a few hours he reached the coast.

He here found a few huts which looked like a village. They were however partly in ruins, and there seemed not to be a single inhabitant left. He wandered about, vainly searching for some human being who might give him food.

After reflecting a long time upon his situation, he determined to take possession of one of the huts, and live there till some vessel should come in sight, and take him from this dreary coast. Here he remained for several days, living upon dates, and a few small fish that he caught with his hands.

At length he discovered a small vessel, at no great distance from the shore. He went

upon a rock, and built a small fire. The smoke was discovered by the people in the vessel, and they cautiously approached the place. Jenkins went to meet them, and to his great disappointment found that they were people with dark skins and a savage aspect.

But he made no resistance, and they took him on board of their little vessel. He could not understand their language, which he found was different from that of the Arabs. After sailing two days, they came to land. They went ashore, and at no great distance came to a little village of small mud huts.

CHAPTER XX.

Jenkins's Adventures continued.

If the little reader of this book will look upon the map of Asia, he will observe that Arabia is separated from Beloochistan, by a

Where is the Gulf of Ormus?

narrow sea called the Gulf of Ormus. It was across this gulf that Jenkins was carried, and the country to which he was taken was what is now called Beloochistan.

The inhabitants of this country consist of various tribes, some of whom are in a savage and others in a barbarous state. Many of them are wholesale robbers, who, mounted on camels, attack villages by night, and carry off the inhabitants for slaves. These they often blindfold, so that they may not see in what direction they are taken away, and thus have the means of finding their way back to their own country.

It was by some of these people called Beloochies, that Jenkins was captured. I have not room to tell you all the details of his captivity. They would fill a large book, and I have but a few pages left. I can therefore only tell you in general terms, what happened to him.

In the first place he was taken across a

sandy desert to Kelat, and sold as a slave to the Khan or king. Kelat is the capital of Beloochistan, and is half as large as Boston. The Khan rules over some of the tribes of Beloochistan. The rest are subject to the king of Afghanistan.

After remaining here in servitude a long time, Jenkins was purchased by a merchant of Cabul, and went with him to that city. This is the capital of Afghanistan, and is a considerable city. The king resides there. The Afghans are an interesting people, and are far superior to the Belooches. They have regular schools in all the towns, and the people are passionately fond of wild and extravagant stories.

From Cabul, Jenkins went with his master on a trading expedition to Ispahan. This was once a magnificent city, but it has lost its ancient splendor. Here he fell in with an Eng-

What is the capital of Beloochistan?
What is the capital of Afghanistan?
What of Ispahan?

lish traveller, whom he persuaded to pay his ransom to the Cabul merchant.

To reward the Englishman for his liberality, Jenkins agreed to accompany him in the capacity of a servant. Thus freed from slavery, and in the society of persons who spoke the same language, he became cheerful and happy.

They soon set out for Teheran. On the way they passed by an immense salt desert. In some parts the salt is here so thick as to cover the ground with a crust, which has the appearance of snow. At length they arrived at Teheran. This is the capital of Persia, and is as large as Boston.

I could tell you a good deal about Persia, if I had time. The people are the most polite, gay and learned of all the Asiatics. They are fond of poetry, delight in music, and are much addicted to dress. They bear a great resem-

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What is the capital of Persia?
How large is Teheran?
What is the character of the Persians?

blance to the French, and are as fond of amusements as the people of Paris.

From Teheran the travellers proceeded to the Caspian sea. This they crossed and entered Independent Tartary. This country they found thinly inhabited by different tribes of Tartars. Along the Caspian sea it was tolerably fertile, but in the interior it was desolate, and mountainous. They were several times attacked by the people, who seem to be given to robbery.

They soon left this inhospitable country, recrossed the Caspian sea, and entered the Caucasian countries. Here they had occasion to admire the fine forms of the men, and the beauty of the women. They now entered Turkey and visited Aleppo.

From this place they proceeded to Jerusalem. In this celebrated city they remained a long time. It is now much smaller, and far less splendid, than it was in the time of Solomon. It is about two and a half miles in circuit.

What can you tell of Independent Tartary?

JERUSALEM.

The streets are narrow, but straight, and well paved. The houses are well built of stone, but there are no windows in the lower stories, so that a person in the streets might imagine himself to be in a prison.

The modern city is built upon a hill, the ascent of which is steep on all sides, but the north. It is surrounded by mountains, between which and the city, is a fine valley beautifully cultivated.

The Jews, who once were a great nation, have now lost their power. They are scattered over the world. Wherever they exist, they still carry with them their peculiar religion, their singular customs, and their strange opinions and feelings.

Their country is now given up to Turkey. Their holy city, in which David reigned, where Solomon built his temple, and Jesus Christ performed his miracles, is now in the hands of those who believe only in Mahomet.

What of the Jews?

CHAPTER XXI.

After remaining several weeks at Jerusalem, Jenkins took leave of the English traveller. The latter was going to Mecca in Arabia, to visit the famous temple of Mahomet, while the former was anxious to return to his native country. Embarking at a small port on the Mediterranean sea, he sailed for Smyrna. At this place he found a vessel going to Boston.

On board this vessel he took passage, and arrived a few weeks after I reached America, as I have related.

I have now told you something about most of the countries of Asia. I could tell you a great deal more if I had time. It would be very pleasant to me, and perhaps entertaining to you, to tell you the history of these countries.

A great many remarkable events have taken place in Asia. It was here that Adam and Eve had their dwelling place in the garden of Eden. Here the great things recorded in the Old Testament chiefly happened. Here

the first great empires arose. Here most of the religions, which have exerted an extensive influence over mankind, have had their origin.

It would certainly be interesting and instructive to go back, and study what has passed in regions so celebrated as these. But all this is too extensive a field for me to enter upon. You will find in larger books than mine the whole story, and as soon as you can, I advise you to read it. I should have been glad to have given you a more particular account of Siberia. Not many travellers have visited that cold region, but our curiosity is excited in proportion to the difficulty of gratifying it.

Along the southern parts bordering upon Tartary, the Siberians resemble the Tartars. Along the northern parts, the people are very short, not being taller than the shoulders of a man among us. They live like the Laplanders, depending upon reindeer chiefly for their subsistence, and for most of their comforts.

At the northeastern extremity of Asia, is a

What can you tell of the Siberians?

KAMSKADALES.

great peninsula, called Kamskatcha. The inhabitants are called Kamskadales. They live partly beneath the earth, in mud cabins, and subsist to a great extent on the products of the sea.

Near the termination of this peninsula, are some of the most sublime mountains in the world. They rise suddenly from the plains, to the height of nearly four miles. Their peaks are always covered with snow, and several of them being volcanic, and in constant activity, light up this cold and desolate extremity of the eastern continent, with terrific splendor.

I must now bid you farewell. If I should find time, and my little hearers should manifest a desire to hear from their talkative Old Friend, I may perhaps, at some future time, tell them some stories about the Islands of the Pacific Ocean, and some Tales of the Sea.

What of Kamskatcha? What mountains at the southern extremity?

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